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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: FUERST, ET AL.

APPLICATION No.: 09/769,066

FILED: JANUARY 24, 2001

FOR: HEPATITIS E VIRUS ANTIGENS AND USES  
THEREFOR

EXAMINER: WORTMAN, DONNA C.

ART UNIT: 1648

CONF. No: 7789

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

**Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The present communication responds to the Office Action dated March 19, 2003 in the above-identified application. Please amend the application as follows. The attached Appendix presents a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment.

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

18. (Amended) A method of producing a Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) polypeptide composition, comprising the steps of:

①

culturing a cell containing the expression vector of claim 12 under conditions sufficient to express a polypeptide sequence encoded by said nucleic acid.